

## FAQs for Schools

### Clarifying the Impact of PL 111-377 on the Yellow Ribbon Program

Public Law 111-377 - "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010" impacts the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Information is available on our website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/community/announcements/general.html> - 20110224. This law impacts the Yellow Ribbon Program effective August 1, 2011.

Q: Effective August 1, 2011, will there be individual state maximum tuition and fee rates?

A: No, there will be a cap of \$17,500 per academic year for private and foreign schools, and Yellow Ribbon Program funds will apply to costs exceeding the cap of \$17,500 for private schools. All in-state, public tuition and fees (undergraduate, graduate, doctoral) can be fully paid for those at the 100% benefit level, and Yellow Ribbon Program funds can be applied to out-of-state charges.

Q: Does the cap of \$17,500 per academic year only apply to the undergraduate level for private and foreign schools?

A. No, the new cap of \$17,500 applies to any approved program/level at a private school or foreign school. Yellow Ribbon Program funding can be applied for tuition and fees above that threshold at a private school.

Q: Must a Veteran or child transferee be at the 100% benefit level to be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program?

A. Yes, that requirement did not change.

Q: Will foreign schools now become eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program?

A. No, the Yellow Ribbon Program remains available for institutions of higher learning in the U.S. or at a branch of such IHL that is located outside the U.S.

Q: Will schools that do not offer a degree now become eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program?

A: No, the Yellow Ribbon Program remains available for institutions of higher learning (in the U.S. or at a branch of such IHL that is located outside the U.S.).

Q: How will the new law effect Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at a *public* school?

A: If a student is attending an approved program at a public school, the benefit for Veterans or child transferees at the 100% benefit level is actual net costs (the cap does not apply). However, Yellow Ribbon Program funds may be applied to out-of-state charges, but only for Veterans or child transferees at the 100% benefit level.

Q: Should a *public* school submit an agreement for the Yellow Ribbon Program for 2011-2012?

A: Yes, if the school would like the Yellow Ribbon Program to cover some or all of the out-of-state tuition and fee charges. The Post-9/11 GI Bill will not cover out-of-state charges otherwise.

By submitting a Yellow Ribbon agreement, a public school is certifying that its out-of-state tuition and fees exceed its in-state rates (reference #12 of agreement) at the time the document is being submitted, and the school must designate Yellow Ribbon contributions (for all or certain programs, etc.) by completing #7 of the agreement.

Q: How will the new law affect Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at a *private* school?

A. If a Veteran or child transferee at the 100% benefit level is attending an approved program at a private school, the program will pay up to the cap of \$17,500 for tuition and fees. If tuition and fee charges exceed the cap of \$17,500, Yellow Ribbon Program funds may be applied. Yellow Ribbon Program funds can be paid if the school applies for and is approved to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Q: Should a *private* school submit an agreement for the Yellow Ribbon Program for 2011-2012?

A: Yes, if the school's tuition and fees exceed the cap of \$17,500 and the school wants the Yellow Ribbon Program to make up part or all of the difference between the cap and the net amount of tuition and fees.

By submitting a Yellow Ribbon agreement, a private school is certifying that at least one of its VA-approved programs has tuition and/or fees that exceed the \$17,500 payable under the Post-9/11 GI Bill at the time this document is being submitted. The school must designate Yellow Ribbon contributions by completing #7 of the agreement.

Q: Should schools that didn't submit a Yellow Ribbon Agreement in prior years submit one for the academic year beginning on August 1?

A: A school whose tuition and fees were less than the "maximum in-state undergraduate tuition and fee rate" were not able to submit a Yellow Ribbon agreement in prior years (unless their out-of-state tuition and fees rates exceeded the threshold). This may change for some schools effective August 1, 2011.

A *public* school should apply for the Yellow Ribbon Program if the school wishes to have its out-of-state charges covered. A *private* school should apply for the Yellow Ribbon Program if its tuition and fees exceed the cap of \$17,500 for the academic year and the school wishes to have the Yellow Ribbon Program make up all or part of the difference between the cap and the net amount of tuition and fees.

Q: How will a student be effected if, in prior years, the tuition and fees and/or tuition and fees coupled with Yellow Ribbon Program funds met the charges for tuition and fees, but will not cover all or part of those charges as of August 1, 2011?

A: Once again, the changes in the law will eliminate the maximum tuition and fees threshold for each state. The law institutes the cap of \$17,500 per academic year for private and foreign schools, and Yellow Ribbon Program funds will apply to costs exceeding the cap of \$17,500 for private schools. All in-state, public tuition and fees (undergraduate, graduate, doctoral) can be fully paid for those at the 100% benefit level, and Yellow Ribbon Program funds can be applied to out-of-state charges.

As of August 1, 2011,

- a student attending a *public* school where the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition and fees are not covered under a Yellow Ribbon Program agreement will have to make up the difference;

- a student attending a *private* school whose tuition and fees will no longer be covered with the cap of \$17,500 and potentially Yellow Ribbon Program funds will have to make up the difference with other aid or contributions;

- a student attending a *foreign* school whose tuition and fees will no longer be covered with the cap of \$17,500 will have to make up the difference with other aid or other contributions.

Q: Will School Certifying Officials be given additional information about properly certifying students for the Yellow Ribbon Program?

A: Training information is currently being prepared. We will ensure information is presented as soon as it is available.

Q: Are schools still required to submit a new Yellow Ribbon Program agreement annually?

A: Yes. The cover letter, agreement, instructions, and checklist will be posted to the GIBill website on February 23, 2011.

Q: How does a school submit a Yellow Ribbon Program agreement?

A. The preferred method is via email or fax. Confirmation of email or fax constitutes VA's receipt of the agreement and should be maintained for the IHL's records. Please submit only one signed agreement. VA will make every effort to respond within ten business days. The institution will either receive an approved agreement and accompanying letter or other related communication.

1. Via e-mail to [Yellow.Ribbon@va.gov](mailto:Yellow.Ribbon@va.gov). If submitting via email, please attach a scanned copy of the signed form. (VA cannot process applications received without a signature.)

or

2. Via fax to 202-275-2636 with a cover sheet displaying **Attn: Yellow Ribbon Program**. (VA cannot process applications received without a signature.)

or

3. Via mail to the following address (tracking method requiring signature is recommended):

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Attn: Yellow Ribbon Program (223C)  
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20420

If sent via email or fax, please retain proof of submission (email receipt or fax transmittal). If sent via mail, please request and retain proof of receipt.

Q: Do changes in the law alter existing requirements of the Yellow Ribbon Program for school officials?

A: Public Law 111-377 does not alter the responsibilities required of a school participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program:

- Certifying in accordance with the school's Yellow Ribbon agreement.
- Maintaining additional records of
  - tracking the number of students enrolled under the Yellow Ribbon Program;
  - tracking the annual amount of the school's tuition and fees;

-developing and documenting the process for the *first come-first-served* enrollment of students into the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Questions concerning participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program should be directed to [Yellow.Ribbon@va.gov](mailto:Yellow.Ribbon@va.gov) .